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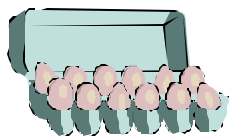
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



In Chicago, prices were sharply higher. In the Boston, prices were unchanged to sharply higher. Elsewhere, prices were unchanged. The market tone ranged steady to firm, mostly fully steady. Demand was generally mixed, fair to good, but was usually fairly good where planned feature activity stimulated additional interest. Supplies were generally adequate to instances close, and often held with seasonal confidence. Breaking stock offerings were tight to adequate for the generally unaggressive demand, and very limited interest was noted in additional quality product. Light type fowl were sufficient for current processing schedules.

NORTH ATLANTIC In Boston, prices were unchanged to 3 cents higher on extra large, unchanged to 2 cents higher on large, and unchanged for mediums. Prices were unchanged in Philadelphia and New England. The market tone was steady to fully steady. Demand was fair to usually good, best into specials in progress or planned for next week. Breaking stock supplies were usually adequate for the generally fair demand. Light type fowl were generally adequate for immediate needs.

NEW YORK Prices are unchanged on all sizes. The market tone was at least steady. Demand was fair to fairly good, best where features were in progress or planned for the upcoming week. Supplies were generally adequate and held with confidence.

MIDWEST Prices to producers in Iowa-Minnesota-Wisconsin and prices in Chicago increased 9 cents for the larger sizes, went up 5 cents for medium and were unchanged for small. Prices in all other areas were not changed. Prices reflect changes from the previous Tuesday's reported prices. The trade sentiment was fully steady to firm. Retail demand was fair to good, best for feature activity. Food service movement was generally moderate. Supplies were adequate to close and most sellers held product with confidence because they anticipated higher prices. Central States nest run breaking stock prices were higher compared to Tuesday's reported price. Breakers were assessing their current situations and were showing little interest for additional heavy weight product. Offerings were tight to adequate. Floor stocks were adequate to close. Trade sentiment was mostly steady.

CHICAGO Prices for larger sizes increased 3 cents and mediums improved 2 cents. The trade sentiment was fully steady to firm. Retail and food service demand remained mixed ranging from light to good, best where features are planned or in progress. Offerings generally adequate.

SOUTHERN Prices were unchanged. The market tone was fully steady at current price levels. Retail demand was often improved entering the weekend, moderate to fairly good, with features stimulating consumer buying activity. Supplies ranged adequate to tight, with seasonal confidence generally noted as the major market factor. Asking prices for next week's deliveries were ranging higher than the current week. Breaking stock supplies were usually adequate for the mostly fair and unaggressive demand. Light type fowl were sufficient for immediate slaughter schedules.

WEST COAST Prices unchanged. The market tone was very firm with asking prices for next week in California 8 cents higher on jumbo, 9 cents higher on extra large and large, and 6 cents higher on medium and small; in the Northwest 7 cents higher on jumbo, 10 cents higher on extra large and large, and 7 cents higher on medium. Retailer demand moderate, best to cover features. Offerings light.

PRICES TO RETAILERS - SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A AND US GRADE A WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR OR WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

NORTHEAST CITIES	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
Boston (Brown)	90-95	83-87	59-61
New York	70-72	67-70	51-54
Philadelphia	56-70	54-68	43.5-51

SOUTHERN CITIES

Atlanta (1) (2)	47-48	45.5-47	37-38
Jackson (1)	57-58	54-55	46-47
Major Louisiana Cities (1)	54-67	51-65	41-55

MIDWEST CITIES

Chicago	60-65	59-64	43-48
Detroit (2)	47-50	46-49	33-36
Major Ohio Cities (2)	48-53	47-51	34-39
Major Wisconsin Cities	51-58	49-56	37-44

WESTERN CITIES

Houston (1)	62-65	59-61	48-49
Southern California(Grade AA)(4)	74-84	73-80	59-65
California (Grade AA) (1) (3)	88	83	69

(1) - Prices Reported Weekly (3) - Reported Invoice Prices
(2) - Delivered Warehouse (4) - Prices To Retailers

CALIFORNIA EGGS Prices unchanged. The market tone was very firm with asking prices for next week 8 cents higher on jumbo, 9 cents higher on extra large and large, and 6 cents higher on medium and small. Retailer demand moderate overall, best to cover features. Offerings light. Small invoice price 49. Ads in Southern California: smaller outlets- jumbo dozen 99-109, extra large dozen 99, large dozen 89-99.

CALIFORNIA

PRICES INVOICE, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	101
EXTRA LARGE	88
LARGE	83
MEDIUM	69

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	88-98
EXTRA LARGE	74-84
LARGE	73-80
MEDIUM	59-65

PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	229-289
EXTRA LARGE	219-279
LARGE	199-219
MEDIUM	187-199

CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK Prices were unchanged. Breakers were assessing current needs and showed little interest at this call for additional heavy nest runs. Offerings were tight to adequate. Floor stocks in close balance to adequate. Trade sentiment mostly steady. PRICES PAID TO 11:00 A.M., MATERIAL EXCHANGED, 30 DOZEN CASE EQUIVALENT, 48 LB. MINIMUM NET WEIGHT, DELIVERED TO BREAKERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
NEST RUN	29-34	32-34
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	14-17	
CENTRAL STATES AREA:		
AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI		

EASTERN REGION BREAKING STOCK Majority prices were higher when compared to early week values. Demand was generally fair but unaggressive for the usually adequate offerings. Undertone ranged from steady to firm. Cases broken under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending March 18, 2000 were 3% less than the previous week, but 2% more than a year ago. Plants were running about normal to normal schedules. PRICES MATERIAL EXCHANGED, 30 DOZEN CASE EQUIVALENT, 48 LB. MINIMUM NET WEIGHT, DELIVERED TO BREAKERS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
NEST RUN	26-32	28-30
CHECKS	14-18	
EASTERN REGION AREA:		
AL,CT,DE,FL,GA,KY,ME,MD,MA,MS,NH,NJ,NY,NC,PA,RI,SC,TN,VT,VA,WV		

EGGS PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION W/E 18-Mar-00						
	(LBS IN THOUSANDS)	(EXCLUDES INGREDIENTS)				
	CASES	LIQUID	LIQUID	LIQUID	DRIED	INED.
	BROKEN	WHOLE	WHITE	YOLK		
CW	1,103,288	24,839	10,950	5,958	2,746	3,725
PW	1,185,234	27,015	11,882	6,593	2,975	3,890
LY	1,025,677	24,515	9,617	5,168	2,368	3,461
% PW	-7	-8	-8	-10	-8	-4
% LY	8	1	14	15	16	8
2000	12,427,040	276,744	127,302	69,700	33,884	41,142
1999	11,376,149	259,180	111,525	62,017	28,229	35,903

AVERAGE YIELD PER CASE -

CURRENT	PREVIOUS	LAST
WEEK	WEEK	YEAR
41.21	41.66	41.69

NATIONAL LIQUID EGGS No pasteurized whites or salt yolk reported. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady for whole egg, mostly steady to occasionally fully steady for whites and barely steady to mostly weak for yolk. Whole egg demand was moderate with some improvement reported. Demand for whites was moderate to good with yolk demand light to moderate and late week trading slightly more active than previously noted. Offerings were adequate for whole egg and whites and fully adequate for yolk. Breaking stock supplies were in close balance to adequate for current needs. Prices paid cents per lb., FOB Plant to 10:00AM Friday 24 March, 2000 non-pasteurized trucklot. For delivery within 14 days.

CLASS	LOADS	RANGE	WTD. AVG.	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK
WHOLE	17	24-31	28.50	3.10
WHITES	16	31.5-34	32.13	.30
YOLKS	11	25.5-30.5	28.23	.79

EASTERN REGION FROZEN Majority prices were unchanged on whole and whites, but slightly lower on yolks when compared to a week earlier. Demand was often light and unaggressive for fully adequate offerings of yolks, interest on balance of items was moderate but showing some improvement. The undertone was at least fully steady on whites and whole, and barely steady to steady on yolks. Liquid and frozen eggs (ingredients included) processed under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending March 18, 2000 were 9% less than last week, and 2% less than a year ago. Shell egg suppliers were fully adequate for needs. WHOLESALE SELLING PRICES (CENTS PER POUND IN 30 LB. CONTAINERS)

	TRUCKLOTS	(MIN. 25 CONT.)	LTL
	RANGE	MOSTLY	RANGE
WHOLE	40-45	40-41	46-53
BLENDS (/)	TFEWR		55-60
WHITES	41-44		47-54
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	41-48	45-46	51-60
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	42-45	42-44	49-69
(/) - WHOLE PLUS YOLK PLUS SWEETENER, GENERALLY 28-32% EGG SOLIDS.			

CENTRAL REGION FROZEN Frozen egg prices were unchanged with the exception of salt yolk which was unchanged to slightly higher. Offerings were adequate for current needs with processors struggling to keep inventories in a workable position. Demand was usually light to moderate with whole egg and whites receiving the best call. Trade sentiment steady to instances fully steady for whole egg and whites and about steady for yolk. WHOLESALE SELLING PRICES (CENTS PER POUND IN 30 LB. CONTAINERS)

	TRUCKLOTS	MOSTLY
	RANGE	
WHOLE	39-43	40-41
WHITES	41-44	42-44
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	45-48	46-48
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	43-45	

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FROZEN Prices 1 cent higher on whole, unchanged on whites and yolks. Southern California breaking activity for the week ending 3/18 was 4% more than the previous week. Breaking stock adequate from regular sources. Frozen demand moderate and freezer stocks adequate. WHOLESALE SELLING PRICES, FOB SHIPPING POINT (CENTS PER POUND IN 30 LB. CONTAINERS)

	LTL (MIN. 25 CONT.)
	RANGE
WHOLE	45-48
WHITES	46-49
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	51-54
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	48-51

NATIONAL DRIED Majority prices were unchanged to slightly higher on blends and unchanged on balance of items when compared to a week earlier. Demand was in a range of light to moderate, although most traders were still unaggressive. Floor stocks were sufficient for most trade needs. The undertone was barely steady to steady on yolks, and mixed but somewhat improved on balance of items. Dried eggs processed under federal inspection for the week ending March 18, 2000 were 8% less than the previous week, and 16% more than the same week a year ago. WHOLESALE SELLING PRICES, DOLLARS PER LB., IN CONTAINERS, TRUCKLOT AND LESS-THAN-TRUCKLOT VOLUMES.

WHOLE	1.42-1.65	MOSTLY	1.45-1.50
YOLKS	1.10-1.25	MOSTLY	1.15-1.20
ALBUMEN, SPRAY, DRIED	3.00-3.40	MOSTLY	3.05-3.15
BLENDS (WHOLE PLUS SWEETENER)	1.17-1.25	MOSTLY	1.17-1.20

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR MAR 17 - MAR 23, 2000

CURRENT LOADS								122.50		FUTURE LOADS				106.00		TOTAL LOADS				228.50	
SE			NE			MW		SC				NW		SW							
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS	CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS						
GNR W 1	44.00	50.85	40.92	43.78	45.11	47.11	86.00	GNR W 1	—	53.42	—	—	—	—	29.50						
GNR W 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.00	GNR W 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.00						
GNR W 3	—	—	22.00	24.00	34.50	36.00	7.00	GNR W 3	—	41.00	—	—	—	—	4.00						
GNR W 4	—	22.00	—	—	—	—	2.00	GNR W 4	19.50	—	—	—	—	—	2.00						
GNR BR 1	—	53.00	—	—	—	53.00	2.00	GNR BR 1	—	51.00	—	—	—	—	.75						
GL W XL	—	62.00	—	50.22	47.83	—	35.50	GL W J	64.00	—	—	—	—	69.00	.25						
GL W LG	—	54.00	44.75	46.00	48.72	—	33.50	GL W XL	56.33	53.25	—	—	51.50	58.75	8.50						
GL W MD	—	—	32.25	34.00	32.33	—	13.75	GL W LG	55.29	55.11	—	58.00	—	59.47	30.00						
GL W SM	—	22.00	19.17	21.00	—	—	4.00	GL W MD	35.33	46.00	—	—	—	41.07	5.75						
NRBS - 48	—	—	31.00	32.00	—	33.33	29.25	GL BR LG	50.00	—	—	—	—	58.00	1.00						
NRBS - 39	24.50	25.50	—	—	—	—	2.00														

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT-MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED. LOAD MOVEMENT REPRESENTS TOTAL MOVEMENT WITHIN 6 REGIONS.

EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices were unchanged. Demand was fair for usually adequate but reduced offerings. Processing schedules were reported as normal. The undertone was steady.

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Trading was too few to report. Demand was moderate to good for in balance offerings of spent hens. Finished sales were sufficient to maintain full schedules. Trade sentiment was generally steady.

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Prices were unchanged. Demand was usually light for the at least adequate to mostly ample offerings. Schedules full-time or better. Trade sentiment about steady.

WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN Plant schedules light to moderate. Offerings irregular.

LIVE HENS

Prices paid for live hens (trucklot) cents/pounds at farm.

	LIGHT	RANGE	MAJORITY
Eastern Light	0-0	(1)	
Eastern Light	0-0	(2)	
So. Central Light	TFEWR	(2)	
No. Central Light	TFEWR	(1)	
No. Central Light	0-5	(2)	0

(1) Buyer Loading (2) Producer Loading

(TFEWR) TOO FEW TO REPORT

SHELL EGGS-12 METRO AREA FOR WEEK ENDING 24-Mar-00
AVERAGE PRICES ON SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A
LARGE OR BETTER, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED
STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

REGIONS	EX LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
NORTHEAST	65.88	63.49	49.46
SOUTHERN	58.93	56.80	43.15
MIDWEST	52.98	51.74	38.74
WESTERN	86.56	80.96	60.92
TWELVE METRO AREAS	69.80	66.52	50.54

COMPUTED FROM SIMPLE WEEKLY AVERAGES

WEIGHTED BY METROPOLITAN AREA POPULATIONS

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Majority prices usually trended unchanged to slightly lower than a week earlier. Trading of heavy cannery was of moderate volume, light cannery was generally limited to fair volume. Demand was moderate but unaggressive for offerings that ranged from well cleared to spot availability. The undertone was about steady to steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS)
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25-27 MAJORITY	33.5-37.5 MAJORITY	35.5-36.5
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CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS (LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	HEAVY CANNER HENS (WITHOUT NECKS)
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26-28.5 MAJORITY	26-27	33.5-39.5 MAJORITY	38-39.5
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LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER INSPECTION W/E 18-MAR-00
(PRELIMINARY) **U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED DOMESTICALLY**

(THOUSANDS)	LIGHT	HEAVY	TOTAL
HEAD	1,971	1,448	3,419
LAST WEEK	2,109	1,513	3,622
SAME WEEK YR AGO	2,125	1,381	3,506
TO-DATE/2000	22,335	14,972	37,307
TO-DATE/1999	23,708	14,555	38,263

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA

(THOUSANDS)	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
HEAD	539	12	551
LAST WEEK	408	0	408
SAME WEEK YR AGO	613	28	641
TO-DATE/2000	5,928	39	5,967
TO-DATE/1999	5,402	109	5,511

SOURCE: AGRICULTURE CANADA, POULTRY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION (R) Revised

TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

(THOUSANDS)	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
HEAD	2,510	1,460	3,970
LAST WEEK	2,517	1,513	4,030
SAME WEEK YR AGO	2,738	1,409	4,147
TO-DATE/2000	28,263	15,011	43,274
TO-DATE/1999	29,110	14,664	43,774

Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade**U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (Preliminary)**

Week Ending March 11, 2000		Year-To-Date	
(000)		(000)	
Type	2000	1999 /1	2000 1999
Liquid	104	188	1,316 2,515
Frozen	0	0	40 6
Dried	0	41	58 99
Total	104	229	1,414 2,620

U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (Preliminary)

Week Ending March 11, 2000		Year-To-Date	
(000)		(000)	
Type	2000	1999 /1	2000 1999
Liquid	83	0	1,128 731
Frozen	54	0	97 74
Dried	0	0	321 10
Total	137	0	1,546 815

Inspected Shell Eggs**U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)**

Week Ending March 11, 2000		Year-To-Date	
2000		2000 1999	
1999 /1			
Jumbo	0	19	92 45
Extra Large	270	1,002	3,743 3,697
Large	2,985	5,798	22,883 17,806
Medium	1,989	1,632	6,837 7,621
Ungraded	2,250	690	8,430 47,459
Misc	0	0	1,500 0
Total	7,494	9,141	43,485 76,628

/1 Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch in cooperation with Agriculture Canada, Poultry Development Division.

DETROIT PRICES TO FIRST RECEIVERS, CASES INCLUDED, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, 30 DOZEN CASES, WHITE EGGS LOOSE.

JUMBO	EX LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
55-58	46-52	44-49	31-36	23-27

IOWA-MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, LOOSE, AT FARM (CASES EXCHANGED, GRADE YIELD BASIS).

LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
40-42	25-27	13-15

NEW ENGLAND PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS, CASES EXCHANGED, GRADE YIELD BASIS, BROWN EGGS LOOSE, AT FARM

JUMBO	EX LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
112-115	74-77	66-69	40-43	16-19

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS -

SELECTED STGE CENTERS

(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	FREGS	TURKS	POP
	LBS	LBS	LBS
AM 20-Mar-00	4,550	119,302	78,194
AM 1-Mar-00	4,561	112,828	78,929
CHG	-11	6474	-735
PCT CHG	0	6	-1

MOVEMENT OF EGGS INTO RETAIL CHANNELS W/E 18-Mar-00**SELECTED**

CONSUMING CENTERS	CW	PW THOUSANDS	PCT CHG PW	LY
ATLANTA	25.0	19.8	26	-25
BOSTON	3.5	3.5	0	-19
CHICAGO	63.9	46.3	38	-3
DETROIT	46.6	28.1	66	14
KANSAS CITY	0.1	0.1	0	0
LOS ANGELES	95.8	95.8	0	16
NEW ORLEANS	13.0	10.0	30	7
NEW YORK	43.0	43.2	0	-14
ST. LOUIS	25.4	13.3	91	49
SAN FRANCISCO	21.3	22.0	-3	0
TOTAL	337.6	282.1	20	3
4 WK MVG AVG	297.2			

COMMERCIAL EGG MOVEMENT REPORT

W/E 18-Mar-00

(RECEIPTS FROM PRODUCERS)

REGIONS	CASES (IN THOUS)	PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	LAST YEAR
N. ATLANTIC	215.0	-7	-13
E.N. CENTRAL	478.4	-4	4
W.N. CENTRAL	252.7	-4	13
S. ATLANTIC	195.7	-2	-1
S. CENTRAL	80.0	4	-6
WEST	266.0	41	19
TOTAL	1487.8	2	3

MATCHED PLANTS REPORTING

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NEW ENGLAND WEEKLY SHELL EGG REPORT, MARCH 21, 2000. PRICES PAID PER DOZEN GRADE A BROWN EGGS IN CARTONS DELIVERED STORE DOOR.

	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
MAINE MOSTLY	104 -	97 -	73 -	49 -
NEW HAMPSHIRE MOSTLY	97-101 99-100	90-94 92-93	66-70 68-69	42-46 44-45
RHODE ISLAND MOSTLY	100-104 100	93-97 93	69-73 69	45-49 45
VERMONT MOSTLY	105-107 107	100 -	75-76 76	- -

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CHICKEN AND EGGS

U.S. egg production totaled 6.66 billion during February 2000, up 6 percent from the 6.28 billion produced in 1999. Production included 5.63 billion table eggs and 1.03 billion hatching eggs, of which 969 million were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2000 averaged 330 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during February 1999. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,019 eggs, up 4 percent from 1,946 eggs in February 1999. February 2000 contained 21 weekdays, one holiday and four Saturdays, compared to 20 weekdays, one holiday and four Saturdays in 1999, as 2000 is a leap year. All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2000, totaled 331 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 331 million layers consisted of 271 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.71 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2000, averaged 69.5 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from the 69.6 a year ago. Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.26 billion eggs during February, up 5 percent from February 1999. The average number of layers during February, at 310 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier. Egg-type chicks hatched during February totaled 35.5 million, down slightly from February 1999. Eggs in incubators totaled 36.1 million on March 1, 2000, up 2 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 251,000 during February 2000, down 6 percent from February 1999.